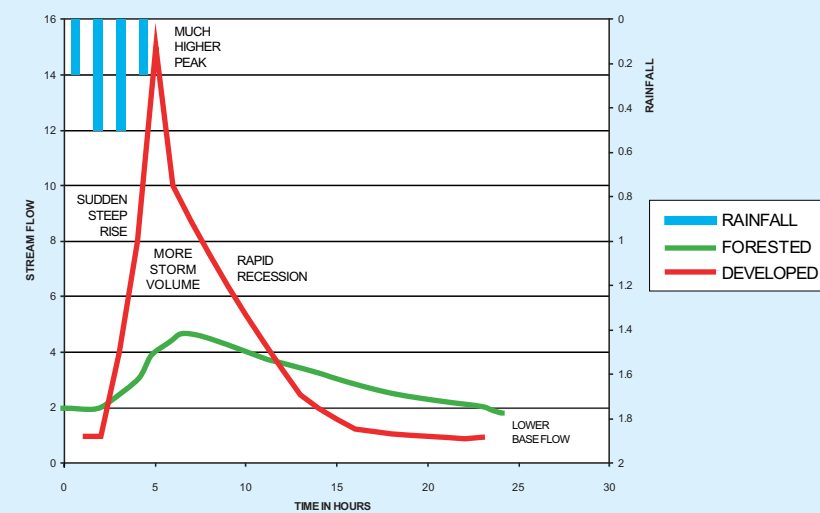


# 65% Plant Cover Retention:

## Preserving natural drainage systems and wildlife habitats

*Science shows that when as little as 15% of a basin is cleared, and more than 3% to 4% of the land is paved, there are significant effects on streams.*

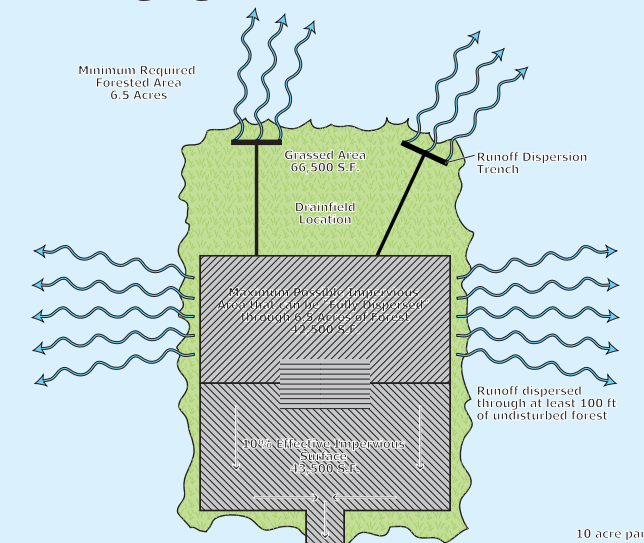
**Runoff from Forested vs. Developed Lands**



*This hydrograph shows how runoff volumes increase and flow faster from developed land compared to naturally forested land. This increases flooding, bank erosion, and damage to streambeds.*

*Using low-impact development techniques, up to 86,000 square feet of impervious surface can be developed on a forested 10 acre parcel while still meeting the 10% effective impervious surface limit.*

**Managing Runoff in Rural Areas**



Under the draft Critical Areas proposal, Rural Zoned (RA) parcels larger than one-half acre must retain 65% vegetative cover and no more than 10% of the parcel can be covered by impervious surfaces (roads, buildings, etc.). In addition to preserving natural water flows, setting this land aside will help protect wildlife habitat and wildlife migration corridors not protected as a critical area.

### MORE OF THE PROPERTY MAY BE CLEARED (UP TO 50%) IN CERTAIN CASES:

- with enrollment in the Forest Stewardship Program
- with voluntary protection of desirable wildlife habitats (caves, old-growth forests, habitat corridors, etc.) that are not already protected within a critical area

### THE 10% IMPERVIOUS SURFACE LIMIT APPLIES ONLY TO "EFFECTIVE" IMPERVIOUS SURFACES

- impervious areas from which the runoff is fully dispersed into a forested area, or in gravel infiltration trenches, do not count towards 10% limit

### DISCOUNTS FOR SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT (SWM) FEES ARE AVAILABLE

- properties complying with the 65/10 clearing and impervious surface limits may be eligible for discounts on their SWM fees
- up to 50% for residential properties